

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 EB-11 CIAE-00

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R 300808Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7294

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS JIDDA 2997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, XF, XT

SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS: COOL VIEW OF ARAB-EC DIALOGUE

1. THERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF AN EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE JIDDA DAILY AL BILAD ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ARAB-WEST EUROPE DIALOGUE. WHILE NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTING AN OFFICIAL VIEW IT DOES REFLECT CAUTION WE HAVE DETECTED AMONG SAUDI OFFICIALS TOWARDS THE DIALOGUE AND A FEELING THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER THE EEC STATES HAVE SORTED OUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

2. QUOTE: THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ARAB LEAGUE (AL) SEC GEN RIAD
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THAT AL HAD PREPARED A WORKING PAPER ON PROPOSED DIALOGUE

WITH WESTERN EUROPE, MEANS THIS ISSUE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE.
BUT PATIENCE IN HANDLING THIS ISSUE REQUIRED BY CIRCUMSTANCES
BECAUSE EUROPE, ITSELF, IS IN A PERIOD OF POLITICAL
UNCERTAINTY. WESTERN EUROPE IS TRYING HARD TO FIND ITS
POLITICAL IDENTITY, AND BEFORE COMPLETING THIS MISSION IT
WILL NOT BE READY FOR A DIALOGUE.

3. IT IS SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE IS NOW BEING CLARIFIED
AFTER SUCH ATTEMPTS RAN INTO DIFFICULTIES SINCE APRIL, 1973.
A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THESE RELATIONS WILL MOST
PROBABLY BE ISSUED NEXT MONTH.

4. THERE IS NO HARM IN WAITING FOR SUCH STATEMENT. IN FACT
THERE IS NO HARM IN WAITING FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO FIND AN
IDENTITY FOR ITSELF FOLLOWING THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE
LEADERSHIP OF ITS THREE MAJOR COUNTRIES. HASTE IN SUCH MATTERS
COULD LEAD TO DIRE RESULTS WHICH ARABS AND EUROPEANS SHOULD
SPARE THEMSELVES.

5. AL SECGEN RIAD SAID WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE EEC
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BONN JUNE 10. IN FACT, WE SHOULD WAIT
UNTIL EUROPE EMERGES WITH A DEFINITE IDENTITY BOTH AS REGARDS
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ITS OWN STATES AND IN ITS RELATIONS WITH
THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

6. PERHAPS EUROPE ALSO WOULD WANT TO WAIT TO SEE WHETHER THE
MIDDLE EAST WILL BECOME STABLE IN THE LIGHT OF THE MILITARY
DISENGAGEMENT TALKS AND THE PEACE TALKS.

7. ARAB AND EUROPEAN SIDES SHOULD NOT WASTE TIME IN WAITING
WITHOUT UNDERTAKING SOME FRUITFUL WORK. WHILE WAITING, THE TWO
SIDES MIGHT INITIATE BASIC CONTACTS AND RELEVANT STUDIES SO THAT
NEGOTIATIONS CAN START ON AN EVEN KEEL."
AKINS

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